

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 3-11, 13, 14 and 16-18 are pending in the application, the only independent claim being claim 1. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 5, 11 and 13 are amended, and claims 2, 12, 15, 19 and 20 are cancelled.

SUMMARY OF ACTION

In the Official Action, the prior restriction requirement was made final, and claim 20 was withdrawn from consideration in the present application. Claims 1, 8 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,159, 767 (Eichelberger), and claims 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as unpatentable over the Eichelberger '767 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,610,455 (Burberry).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that the application contains allowable subject matter, and that claims 2-7 and 9-16 are allowable over the prior art.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The rejections of the claims over the cited art respectfully are traversed. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejections, and solely to advance prosecution of the application to issue, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of original dependent claim 2, which was indicated as allowable, and claim 2 has been cancelled in view thereof. No new matter has been added.

Claims 12, 15 and 19 also have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Claim 20, which was withdrawn from consideration in this application, has been cancelled to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicant reserves all rights to the subject matter recited in claim 20, including the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter recited therein.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:CPW/eks

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: July 25, 2005

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